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Judaism

Judaism began around 2000 B.C. when Abraham, who is considered the father of Semitic religions, made a divine covenant with God. Important texts of Judaism include: The Tanakh, the Torah, the Nevi’im, and the Ketuvim. Jews share several basic beliefs: God exists, God is one and unique, God is incorporeal, God is eternal, prayer is to be directed to God alone, the words of the prophets are true, Moses was the greatest prophet, the Torah was given to Moses, there is no other Torah, God knows all thoughts and deeds, God will reward the good and punish the wicked, the Messiah will come, and the dead will be resurrected. Synagogues are where Jews worship, which are led by Rabbis. Rabbis have to pass extensive examinations on the Torah and Talmud. They are permitted to marry and have children. Kosher Practices are specific dietary practices that some Jews follow concerning what Jews can and can’t eat. Ceremonies are held in celebration of Jewish children passing into adult hood, usually around age thirteen. Bar Mitzvah is the name associated with the males and Bat Mitzvah for females.

Moses is the main prophet in the Jewish religion. He led the Jew out of slavery in Egypt and into the Promised Land that God said they should go to. The Passover is the Jewish holiday that remembers this event in Jewish history. Moses also led the Jews to safety through the Red Sea, by using God’s power to part the water for God’s people to pass through. God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, where he gave Moses the Ten Commandments, by which Christians and Jews shape their lives and define what is good. The Torah was also passed down to Moses, which is the Jewish holy book.

One of the most important Jewish holidays is called the Passover. The Passover is the holiday which celebrates when the Hebrew were freed from the Egyptians. Their flight from slavery is also known as the Exodus. God called down plagues against the Egyptians until the Pharaoh agreed to release the Hebrews. The Passover is celebrated in Israel by seven days of rest.